

Please cancel Claims 21-23.

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and are pending in the application. Claims 21-23 have been canceled. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 1-7, 9-14, 16, 17, and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hogan (U.S. Patent No. 4,885,000). Claims 8 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hogan.

Applicants wish to gratefully acknowledge the telephone interview held with the Examiner on January 27, 2000. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 10, and 17 pursuant to the Examiner's indication that these amendments overcome the rejection of Claims 1, 10, and 17 in view of Hogan. Accordingly, Applicants submit that as amended Claims 1, 10, and 17 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-9 depend from Claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1 as well as for the novel features which they add.

Claims 11-16 depend from Claim 10 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 10 as well as for the novel features which they add.

LAW OFFICES OF
SKJERVEN, MORRILL
MacPHERSON, FRANKLIN
& STIEL LLP

25 METRO DRIVE
SUITE 700
SAN JOSE, CA 95110
(408) 453-9200
FAX (408) 453-7979

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe pending Claims 1-17 are allowable and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the application, the Examine is invited to call the undersigned Attorney at (949) 718-6780.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, Washington, D.C. 20231, at (703) 305-3580.

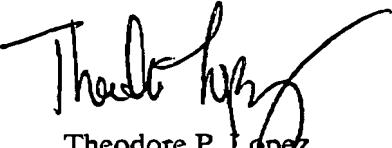
on January 28, 2000.


Theodore P. Lopez
Attorney for Applicants

1/28/00
Date of Signature

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Respectfully submitted,


Theodore P. Lopez
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 44,881

LAW OFFICES OF
SKJERVEN, MORRILL
MacFIESEN, FRANKLIN
& FRIEL LLP

25 METRO DRIVE
SUITE 700
SAN JOSE, CA 95110
(408) 453-9700
FAX (408) 453-7979